Chief, Environmental Health Services Br.
Albuquerque Area Office

October 31, 1974

Confidential Claim Retracted
Authorized by: SC
Date: 9/25/13

Senior Service Unit Sanitarian
Santa Fe Service Unit

Uranium Mine Plans

On October 11, 1974, Harry A. Doutt, Senior Service Unit Sanitarian, and Georgia P. Pedro, Field Sanitarian, Santa Fe Service Unit, reviewed plans submitted to the State EIA for licensing a uranium mine and mill. The review was made at the office of Mr. Alfonso A. Tapp, Environmental Improvement Agency, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Information regarding the mine and mill are as follows:

Name:

L-Bar Uranium Mine and Mill
Valencia County, New Mexico

Proposed By:

SOHIO Petroleum Co. & Reserve Oil & Minerals Corp.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Environmental Consultants:

Woodward-Envicon, Inc.
San Francisco, California
Project No. 73-634

Questions/Consult:

Mr. Lynn C. Jacobsen, Manager of Uranium Operations
SOHIO Petroleum Co.
6001 Marble, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
Telephone No. 265-1648

Application for State License:

September 12, 1974

Location:

Ten miles north of Laguna Village, Laguna Reservation,
Two - three miles northeast of Paguate Village, Laguna Reservation,
Two miles east of Moquino, a small village on Spanish land grant.

The Mine:

Underground mine.
Acid-leach solvent-extraction mill. Tailings to be damned near mill site.
Three major ore bodies:
450-500 feet beneath surface
1,000 test holes so far
6,277 lbs./day as 80% U_3O_8
2.3 million lbs./yr.
Forty-eight men employed over the 10-15 years of operation

Finished Product:

Yellow-cake
Put in 55-gallon drum -- 900 lbs. each
Stored outside on storage docks
Shipped by closed vans-truck type.

Possible Dangers:

If tailings basin dam should fail, the runoff will flow onto Indian land by way of local unnamed wash which meets the perennial Rio Moquino, southeast of Moquino and travel toward Paguate Reservior.

Precautions:

A. Clay covered dam
B. Any seepage through the dam is collected in sump and pumped back into dam
C. Monitoring wells positioned downstream to test water contamination and seepage rate. Double wells - one penetrating the underlying bedrock and the other extending only into the over-burden soils.

When the mining operation is terminated, the entire disposal area will be covered with an 80 foot blanket of topsoil and seeded.

Radiation Safety:

Quarterly external radiation survey--Geiger counter
Personnel - TLD dosimetry program

Airborne Radiation Survey Program:

General air samples will be taken for 6-8 hours and uranium determinations will be made by fluorimetric method.

Workers will wear sampler and pump, 1 day out of 14 or metallurgist technician will take 5 minute samples on a per task basis.

Liquid Effluent Sample Program:

The 12 wells will be sampled quarterly.

Security:

Chain link fence to enclose the entire operation and signs, " "Restricted Area", will be posted at 200-500 foot intervals.
The L-Bar area covers 120,000 acres.
The mill area enclosed with chain link fencing will be 1,300 acres.

Training:

Operation and safety indoctrination will be given to new employees the first seven working days.

EIA Involvement:

The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency is concerned only with Section 12-9-7: Licensing of Radioactive Material, and Section 12-9-8: Exemptions of the Radiation Protection Act. (see attached).

Comment by Mr. Tapp:

Mr. Tapp stated that the company's overall plans are the best he has ever seen.

Harry A. Doutt
Senior Service Unit Sanitarian
Santa Fe Service Unit

Attachment

cc: HAD file
Chrono